

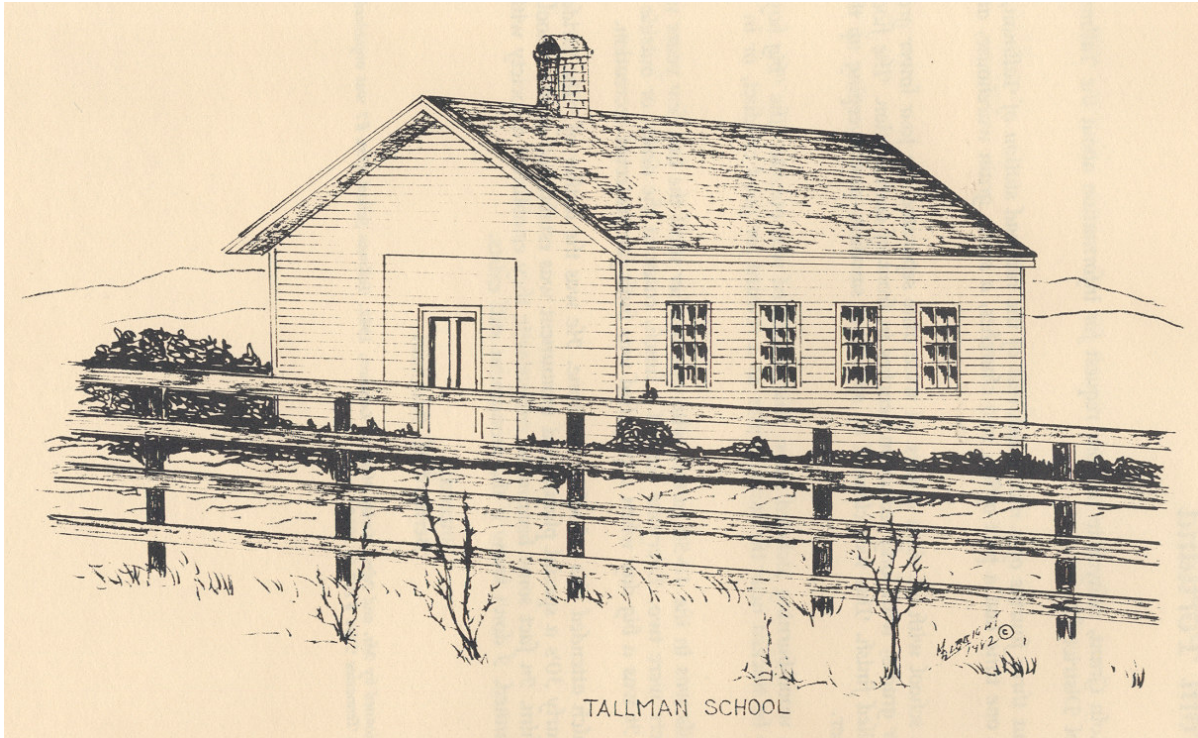
# Tallman

---

## Tallman School

### A Letter from Portland

#### From When the Bells Rang



My wife's sister, Lola Grant, relayed to us your request for information about the Tallman School, Linn School District #7.

It was located about three fourths of a mile southwest of the railroad station of Tallman, a community that at one time had a post office, two churches, a store, grain warehouse, and community hall.

It was a one room school with all eight grades. A wide aisle separated the four lower grades from the four upper grades, with long recitation benches in front of each section. The floor was wooden, with an oiled finish. This was cleaned by spreading sawdust, and sweeping up the dirt and sawdust together.

It was heated by a wood-burning jacketed stove. The woodshed was outside. The "big boys" brought in wood to be stacked near the stove, either as a reward for good conduct, or in punishment.

The number of pupils was in the 40-50 range, with one teacher until the last few years we were there, then there were two. Everyone carried a lunch, eaten at the desks, or outside if weather permitted. It was a big day when a playshed was built for protected recreation.

Frederic Homer Balch attended this school at one time. He was the author of "The Bridge of the Gods". In the early 30's a special plaque and monument was established at the school grounds, honoring him. In fact some became so enthusiastic they established a society with annual meetings planned. I don't know if the monument still

exists.

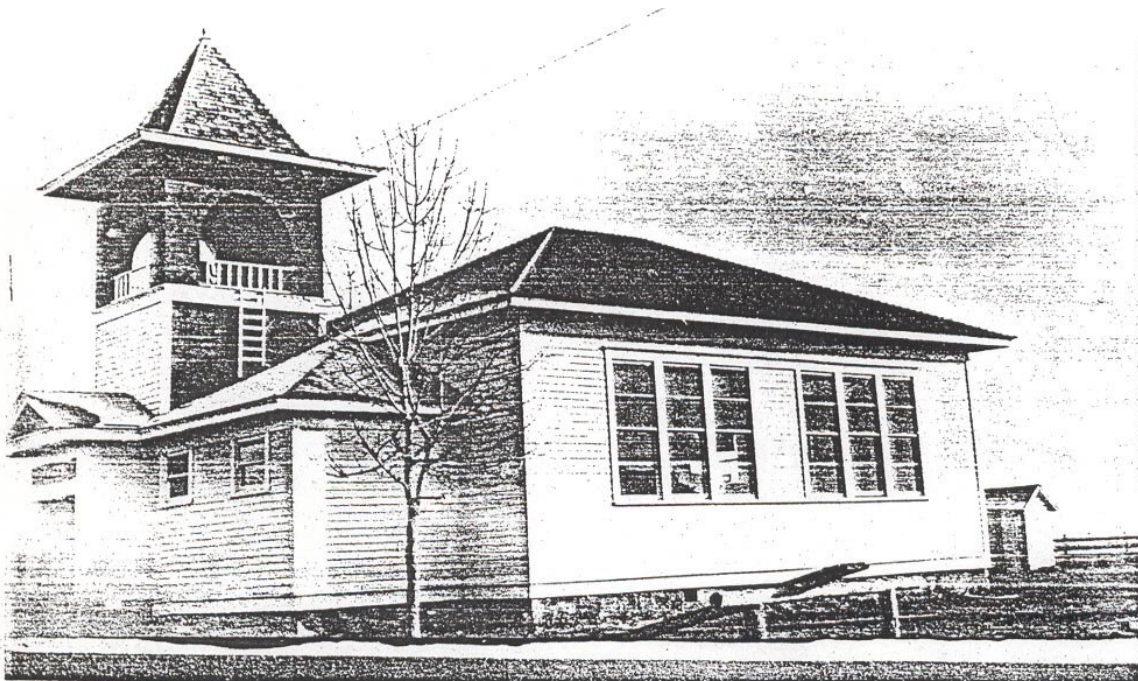
Sincerely,  
Bernard H. McClain

*Drawn from a photograph loaned by Mr. And Mrs. Harley Haskins, Lebanon, 1982.  
Tallman School Dist. #7 was organized in 1854 and consolidated with Tennessee Dist.  
#102 in 1959.*

---

***Tallman School District #7***

**From Tennessee School District #102C Centennial Book (1989)**



*Taking on the look of a charcoal drawing, this copy-of-a-copy shows what is believed to be the second Tallman School, built sometime between 1902 and 1907.*

Information is meager about the history of this long-gone school. According to the Tennessee School District Centennial Book, Tallman School was organized in 1854 and Dr. Crawford was the first teacher in the 1854-55 school year. In 1900 there were 42 students, and their names are listed in the Centennial Book.

One of the most prominent people to attend Tallman School was Frederick Homer Balch, author of the novel *The Bridge of the Gods*. Balch was born in Lebanon but attended Tallman while his father was teacher there (1866-67). In 1931-32 a dedication was held at Tallman School to place a monument for Balch, who died in 1891. In 1959 the monument was moved to the park at the Lebanon city library.

From these records we know that the school budget for the 1937-38 school year was \$858.50, of which the teacher received \$680 per year for salary, and the clerk \$15 per year. By the 1947-48 school year, the teacher's salary had grown to \$1,785 per year.

On May 18, 1959 the voters decided to consolidate the district with Tennessee, and the school was closed.

In 1989, shortly before the centennial celebration for Tennessee School, the editor of the Centennial Book (unknown) received a letter from Ida Belle Nofziger Mullet, a former student who then lived in Glendale, Arizona. Her charming letter about student life at Tallman in the late 1920's is quoted below.

“There's lots of trivial things I remember – By this scribbling you wouldn't believe I excelled in writing and also spelling.

Walked to school-1 ½ miles by way of the railroad and 1 ¾ around the road. Nofzigers lived north of Tallman. Riders were rare, we all walked. Our own books, papers, pencils, pen and ink, and inkwells. (Boys dipped our long hair in them if they could. Oh how we hated that.) The bell was rang 30 minutes before school time and oh how we'd hurry if we were a little late. I don't remember that I was ever tardy, tho some were of course.

The pump (water) was on the north east side, a force pump. (I think that is what they called it) was later replaced with a pitcher pump. The big boys liked to hold their hand under the spout, then the water would squirt out of the little hole near the top. Of course it always kept us little kids away.

Rest rooms 2 of them out back. Girls was a 3 holer – I don't know what the boys was. There was a plank to walk on when it was wet.

Play shed – was built sometime during my early school years. What good times we had when it was raining. The games we played in there and in the open when it was nice – ball, mostly boys played that; but there was all those “goodies” Andy over, hop scotch, London Bridge, Ring around the rose, Flying Dutchman, and others I'm sure.

We also had spelling matches, arithmetic matches, sometimes on Fri. afternoon. What fun. I loved the arithmetic. Mr Bennet (*teacher from 1926-1930, Ed.*) challenged me with some tough ones as he gave them out. Of course the 8th grade would win, (I was the only 8th grader) therefore I was his pet. Wilmon Averhoff who was my classmate all those years, took the 8th grade exams at the end of the 7th grade, passed so skipped the 8th.”

The Centennial Book also includes student census lists from 1934-1940 and 1945-1958. There is also a list of teachers from 1953-1959.

*(Editor's note: A copy of the Centennial Book may be found in the back of the Tennessee School binder in the Facilities office, at the district office. Copies will also be sent to the Lebanon High School library and the Lebanon Community Library.)*